

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A wedge socket with actuator assembly which comprises:
2 a wedge socket having an elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end,
3 a small opening at a second end, an interior cross-section tapering from said large opening to said
4 small opening, and a pair of sides;
5 a connector extending from said first end;
6 a wedge having a large end, a small end, a peripheral groove to receive a wire rope,
7 and a pair of sides, wherein at least one said side of said wedge has a series of recesses, said series
8 of recesses including a plurality of aligned semi-spherical recesses and a plurality of aligned slots;
9 wherein at least one said side of said wedge socket has at least an opening
10 therethrough to permit a tool to pass through said opening to be received in one of said recesses in
11 order to move said wedge with respect to said socket.

1 2. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including
2 a clip to attach said wire rope to said large end of said wedge.

1 3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
2 said at least one opening through said wedge socket includes two slots.

1 5. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
2 a ratio of a diameter of said large end of said wedge to a diameter of said wire is a minimum of five
3 or greater.

1 6. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
2 said small end of said wedge has an extended portion extending beyond said basket.

1 7. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 5 wherein
2 said extended portion has a transverse opening and a wedge retaining means.

1 8. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
2 said connector includes a pair of jaws extending from said first end and a pin connecting said jaws.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A wedge socket with actuator assembly which comprises:
2 a wedge socket having an elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end,
3 a small opening at a second end, an interior cross-section tapering from said large to said small
4 opening, and a pair of sides;
5 a connector extending from said first end;
6 a wedge having a large end, a small end, a peripheral groove to receive a wire rope,
7 and a pair of sides, wherein at least one side of said wedge has a series of recesses;
8 a clip in order to secure said wire rope to said large end of said wedge; and

9 lever means to impart movement to said wedge with respect to said socket by
10 inserting a tool through an opening in said side of said wedge socket and using said side as a
11 fulcrum.

1 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 9 wherein
2 a ratio of a diameter of said large end of said wedge to a diameter of said wire is a minimum of five
3 or greater.

1 12. (Original) A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 9 wherein
2 said small end of said wedge socket has an extended portion extending beyond said basket.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method to engage a wedge having a pair of sides in a wedge
2 socket having an elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end, a small opening at a
3 second end, and a pair of sides, which method comprises:

4 running an end of a wire rope through said hollow basket of said wedge socket from
5 said small opening to said large opening;

6 positioning said wire rope in a peripheral groove around the circumference of said
7 wedge and then running said end of wire rope back through said hollow basket of said wedge socket;

8 inserting said wedge with said wire rope therearound into said hollow basket;

9 actuating said wedge with respect to said wedge socket by inserting a tool through
10 at least one opening in said side of said socket and into at least one recess in one of said sides of said
11 wedge; and
12 using said side of ~~side~~ said socket as a fulcrum to move said wedge.

1 14. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13 including the additional step of clipping
2 said wire rope to said large end of said wedge prior to actuating said wedge with said tool.

1 15. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said side of said wedge has a
2 plurality of aligned recesses and wherein said step of actuating said wedge is repeated until said
3 wedge and said wire rope are tightly engaged with said socket.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in Claim 13 wherein all said steps are
2 performed in reverse order to disengage said wedge.